EXCISE.

(*Nos. 176—186.*)

SUBJECT No. 176.

Prosecutions under Excise Regulation not to be conducted by Officers who have investigated the case.

Mr. K. S. Santhanam Iyengar, Closepet Municipality.

Note.—Not discussed owing to the absence of the proposer.

SUBJECT No. 177.

Tapping of bagani trees by *hiduvalidars*.

Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao, and C. Vasudeva Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Some bagani trees may be allowed to be tapped for *bona fide* home consumption.

Messrs. Kallegowda, H. V. Rangaswami and some other members opposed this suggestion on the ground that drinking would thereby increase and the present system had checked drinking to some extent and was found to be beneficial.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 178.

Formation of date groves in every village.

Mr. Nage Gowda, Mulbagal taluk.

Note.—Not discussed owing to the absence of the proposer.

SUBJECT No. 179.

Tapping of bagani trees.

Messrs. Krishnappa, and Channabasappa Gowda, Sorab taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Bagani trees do not yield toddy permanently like date trees. Such bagani trees as yield toddy may be numbered. After duly considering the total income from tree tax and other items of expenditure for each shop and also safe-guarding interests of Government the trees may be leased out for not less than five years at a time and the numbering of such trees as are uncertain of yielding toddy may be abolished.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into by the Excise Commissioner.

SUBJECT No. 180.

Tapping of toddy trees.

Mr. Kere Krishnappa, Gudibanda sub-taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Toddy contractors are required to put in applications for toddy trees from the 15th June for getting them numbered and have toddy supplied to the shops on 1st July. As this arrangement causes some delay for the supply of toddy to the shops in time, the new contractors may be permitted to tap toddy for about five or ten days from the old trees on payment of certain prescribed fee.

Reply of Government.—Not possible.

SUBJECT No. 181.

Abolition of raiyats' liability for payment of tree tax.

Messrs. Venkatasamayya, Chamrajnagar taluk, and K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—If toddy trees in the holding of raiyats are leased out to contractors, a rent of four annas will be paid and in case the contractor fails to pay the tree tax to Government, the holder will be held responsible for the same. This makes the raiyats responsible for a tax of Rs. 2-8-0 while receiving a payment of tree rent of four annas. The raiyats may be absolved from their liability to pay up the tree tax on failure of payment of the same by the contractor.